



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Neighborhood Revitalization Commission

Monday, November 28, 2016

6:00 PM

3rd Floor Conference Room

Call to Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Tim Kabat at 6:02 p.m.

Present: 6 - Tim Kabat, Robert Haavind, Barb Janssen, Jennifer Trost, Will Kratt, Linda Bye

Excused: 3 - Phil Ostrem, Carla Pena, Liz Nutter

Absent: 2 - Steve Nicoli, Steven Larrabee

Others present: Council Member Cornett, Council Member Richmond, Sue Lynch, Carolyn Dvorak, Jason Gilman, Sara Olson.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Kratt, seconded by Janssen, to approve the November 7, 2016 meeting minutes. The motion carried by voice vote.

Agenda Items:

1. Vulnerable Highway User Law - Carolyn Dvorak, Bike Fed

Carolyn Dvorak from the Wisconsin Bicycle Federation presented to the NRC on the vulnerable user law they have championed for the past five years. A vulnerable user law is intended to protect vulnerable users of the highway such as bicyclists, pedestrians, law enforcement, construction workers, horse/buggy, etc. Currently, if a vulnerable user is injured or killed by a motorist, prosecutors would need to prove criminal negligence; otherwise the motorist only incurs traffic violations. A law would allow prosecutors to charge a misdemeanor when a motorist's negligence causes death to a person who isn't in a vehicle. The Bike Fed has been working to pass this legislation for the past five years. A bipartisan supported bill didn't make it to the floor last year, but they plan to find sponsors and introduce it again in January. The NRC and other individuals can help by contacting their legislators and encouraging them to support the bill. Individuals can also change their own behavior at the community level while driving. A pedestrian hit by a vehicle traveling 20 mph has a 9/10 chance of surviving while a pedestrian hit by a vehicle traveling 40 mph has a 1/10 chance of surviving. Individuals should observe all crosswalks and pedestrians, not just marked crosswalks. The most productive thing individuals can do is to contact legislators and change their own behavior. The NRC will draft a statement of support when Carolyn notifies that the bill is being introduced.

2. Stakeholder input for the Hwy 53 Corridor Master Planning Process

Will Kratt presented to the NRC on the Highway 53 Corridor Master Planning Process and invited stakeholder input on the topic. The Hwy 53 Corridor is from I-90 Exit 3 to downtown La Crosse and one-two blocks east and west of the road. They are seeking stakeholder input because they need support, buy-in and ideas from those it affects. The planning process is occurring because the City received a Community Development Grant and seeks to identify land use and transportation efficiency, and economic revitalization and resiliency. The process involves background studies (transportation, market and economic analysis, infrastructure, redevelopment, livability), gathering input (website, one-on-one interviews, focus groups), defining a shared vision (identifying shared goals and vision to be integrated into the plan, defining success for all stakeholders, balancing needs with outcomes, and prioritizing recommendations and improvements for the Highway 53 Corridor), testing ideas for change (solid real world data - demographics, land use, zoning; developer input - market dynamics; achievable implementation), blessing those ideas that meet community goals, and creating an action plan and getting to work implementing the plan. This process is about halfway thru and is moving into alternative development. The action plan is to be implemented in June 2017. Will also noted the Lower Northside and Logan Northside neighborhood associations are impacted by this Corridor area. Will noted this is different than the DOT's Exit 3 project and that the end result of this planning process is not necessarily a construction project.

Stakeholder input included: concern for school zones and children's safety; accessible and present sidewalks; educating citizens that this is different than DOT's Exit 3 project and they can have an input; including adequate parking lots and ramps; improving housing stock along corridor; concern for increased traffic levels with increased downtown employment opportunities; incorporating the Uptowne efforts into the plan; and upgrading water/sewer infrastructure when the road is under construction anyways.

3. Action Plan review

Commissioners briefly reviewed the draft action plan on the projection screen. Sara Olson will distribute the draft to commissioners for review with assignment of preparing feedback for the next meeting. Please identify partners, range and priority level for each line. Please also consider any items you may want to take the lead on and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

4. Mayor's apology update

The Mayor is preparing an apology statement in response the Human Rights Commission coordinated Sundown Towns event and overarching history of discrimination. This will be a public event with the Human Rights Commission, religious leaders, and anyone interested in signing the proclamation that will be made jointly by Mayor Kabat and former Mayor John Medinger. Sara Olson will email the information when the details are set.

5. Winter accessibility issues

Commissioners discussed winter accessibility issues including disabled access on sidewalks and roads when snowfall impedes the ability to use them. The NRC would like to see better communication modes for MTU about immediate issues. The Mayor will pass along the NRC concerns to the MTU and their ADA subcommittee. He also

will have the phone number more prominently publicized when snow arrives. Commissioners noted that neighborhood associations could utilize Nextdoor and Facebook for spreading the word on the importance of keeping sidewalks cleared and also the phone number for reporting issues to the MTU. The Mayor will report back at the next meeting.

6. Parking statement

Commissioners briefly reviewed a parking statement that Jennifer Trost had drafted. This statement is meant to be supportive to Jason Gilman and Jim Flottmeyer. It could also be distributed to the Council and Parking Utility Board. Sara Olson will distribute a copy of the draft for commissioners to review and prepare feedback on. The Mayor asked the NRC to identify 1-2 priority from the transportation vision that could be addressed.

Other

Barb Janssen is circulating a neighborhood leader contact list to be updated as leadership changes at the end of the year.

Sue Lynch shared that Goosetown is updating their bylaws and also inquired about legislative items in their neighborhood; the Mayor noted they are on the upcoming F&P Committee meeting agenda.

Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next meeting is Monday, January 9, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Janssen, seconded by Kratt, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Tim Kabat at 7:40 p.m.

Notice is further given that members of other governmental bodies may be present at the above scheduled meeting to gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility.

NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY

Requests from persons with a disability who need assistance to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk's office at (608) 789-7510 or send an email to ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org, with as much advance notice as possible.